GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2788
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
LIVE TELECAST OF MUMBAI INCIDENT
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had imposed any restriction on the live telecast of recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai by the news channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring out guidelines on such live coverage in view of security concerns; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTAING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (d) Keeping in mind the public interest and interest of national security, Ministry of I&B vide communication dated 27.11.2008(copy annexed) directed all the News & Current Affairs TV channels to ensure that the coverage of the incidents relating to the recent terrorists attack in Mumbai does not focus on or report the location,strength,movement strategy or any related operations being followed by the security forces engaging with the terrorists as it may jeopardise their position. The Channels were also directed that close-ups and images of blood or gore, dismembered or disfigured limbs or bodies or images of dead or seriously wounded people which may seriously distress a substantial number of viewers or cause panic and incite further violence may not be carried.

The News Broadcasters Association has prescribed its own self-regulation guidelines and has agreed to incorporate an 'Emergency Protocol'to supplement these Guidelines to address such concerns.